

Message Text

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TAGS: EAGR, EAID, FFAO

SUBJ: FAO COUNCIL, 66TH SESSION -
FIRST DAY

/SUMMARY/- OPENING MEETING HIGHLIGHTED BY DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S
STATEMENT FOCUSING ON REQUIREMENTS ARISING FROM WORLD FOOD
CONFERENCE AND RESISTING ANY MOVE TOWARD ESTABLISHING
RELATIVE PRIORITIES IN PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET.
/IMPROVED GRAIN SITUATION REPORTED. /END SUMMARY/

1. COUNCIL AGENDA ADOPTED WITH A FEW CHANGES, INCLUDING
ELIMINATION OF ITEM 13.5 OWING TO ABSENCE OF NEW INFO RE
SAHEL AND ITEM 18.2 WOING TO PROVISIONS FOR DISCUSSING WFC
UNDER OTHER ITEMS. L.C. J. MARTIN UK DELEGATE, WAS
ELECTED FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN AND J.S. CAMARA, GUINEAN, SECOND
VICE CHAIRMAN BY ACCLAMATION. J.S. KHAN, PAKISTAN ALTERNATE
AND PERM REP TO FAO, APPOINTED CHAIRMAN FO PLENARY DRAFTING
COMMITTEE WITH OTHER DRAFTING APPOINTMENTS TO BE MADE LATER.

2. DG BOERMA'S STATEMENT TOUCHED ON GREAT VARIETY OF TOPICS.
HE MENTIONED MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT, WHICH WITH SAUDI ARABIAN LEAD CONCLUDED THERE
IS PROSPECT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND AND HAILED SECRETARY
KISSINGER'S STATEMENT AT OECD THAT U.S. WILL PARTICIPATE.
HE ANNOUNCED SELECTION OF M, MENSAH OF FAO AS VP AND EXEC.
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SECRETARY OF CGFPPI (WITH EDWIN M. MARTIN OF CGFPPI ON PODIUM).

AS RESULT OF FAO STUDY OF FERTILIZER PROBLEM FOR LDC'S HE STATED PRINCIPAL NEEDS TO BE LDC PRODUCTION, PRICE STABILIZATION OF FERTILIZER, AND CONTINUING SUPPLY ASSISTANCE UNTIL PRICES STABILIZED. HE REQUESTED COUNCIL ENDORSEMENT OF FAO ACTIVITIES IN FERTILIZER. ACCEPTANCE ON INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY BY 45 COUNTRIES PLUS EEC ANNOUNCED, COMPRISING 85 PERCENT OF PRODUCTION, WITH ONLY CHINA AND THAILAND DECIDING. DG NOTED ENDORSEMENT BY AD HOC CONSULTATION ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY OF FAO COMMITTEE ON WFS, INCLUDING AMENDMENT OF FAO PROPOSALS, AND ASKED FOR COUNCIL APPROVAL OF CWFS AS WELL AS RECONSTITUTION OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF WORLD FOOD PROGRAM AS COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAM. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT FOOD AID PLEDGES OFR 1975 COME CLOSE TO REQUESTED 10 MILLION TONS BUT WARNED THIS WAS MINIMUM AMOUNT AND SUPPORT WAS NEEDED FOR WFP AID, ESPECIALLY DLR750 MILLION TARGET FIGURE FOR 1976-77 BIENNIAL. HE HAILED EEC COMMODITY AGREEMENT WITH 46 LDCS AS ENCOURAGING PARALLEL OF BENEFICIAL EFFECTS OF WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE.

3. BOERMA CENTERED HIS PROPOSALS ON PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET BASED ON FAO INVOLVEMENT WITH WF CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP. ATTENTION TO SUMMARY PROGRAM NEEDED NOW WITH CONSIDERATION OF NEW POSITIONS TO FOLLOW LATER. HE CALLED FOR RESOURCES TO MEET UNBUDGETED INCREASES IN REQUIREMENTS, MAINTAINING THAT VERY LITTLE EXPECTED OF FAO CAN BE ELIMINATED. HE FLAGGED HIS DISAGREEMENT WITH LOW PRIORITIES NAMED IN PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET, STATING THESE DO NOT CONFORM WITH OBJECTIVES ADOPTED BY WF CONFERENCE. HE DWELT ON FINANCE COMMITTEE'S CALL FOR BALANCE BETWEEN GROWTH OF FAO-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES AND LIMITED SUPPORT FOR THEM CITING GREATER VOLUME OF WORK IN TRAVEL AND DOCUMENTATION AND INCREASE OF MEETINGS. AS RESULT OF THIS PROBLEM HE WELCOMED THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF CIRCULATION OF DOCUMENTS AND PROGRAM OF MEETINGS SCHEDULED AT EARLIER REQUEST BY FRANCE AND CANADA. HE CITED REPORT OF EXPERTS ON ECONOMIC STRUCTURE OF UN ORGANIZATIONS FOR SUBMISSION PREP COM UNGA SS-7 AND REQUESTED GUIDANCE THIS SUBJECT FOR HIS PARTICIPATION IN GENEVA MEETING IN JULY. RE IWY HE HELD THAT FAO SHOULD WORK ON ROLE OF WOMEN IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND URGED COUNCIL ADOPT DRAFT RESOLUTION RECOMMENDED BY UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARIAT.

4. ITEM CONCLUDED BY CHAIRMAN'S CALL FOR CAREFUL REVIEW OF RESOURCES AND PROGRAM LEADING TO PROGRAM REALITIES RATHER THAN ILLUSIONS.

5. CURRENT WORLD FOOD SITUATION (DOCUMENT CL66/33-REV I)
AND VERBAL REPORT ON WORLD WHEAT SITUATION BY/

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY INTERNATIONAL WHEAT COUNCIL WERE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT AND RECEIVED SUPPORT OF U.S. DELEGATE. WORLD GRAIN PRODUCTION FOR 1975 FORECAST 8 0/0 ABOVE YEAR AGO. FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE SITUATION EASED SOMEWHAT. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS MSA COUNTRIES LIKELY REQUIRE LARGER AMOUNTS ASSISTANCE. DOCUMENT CONCLUDED THAT IN SPITE FAVORABLE GRAIN CROP DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY IN NORTH AMERICAN, THE FOOD SITUATION WILL CONTINUE TO BE DIFFICULT IN MANY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

6. IN VIEW DIRECTOR-GENERAL FAO, AREAS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENTS IN 1975/76 ARE:

A) SAFEGUARDING MSA ESSENTIAL IMPORT REQUIREMENTS OF GRAINS FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES WITH LARGER RESOURCES NEEDED FOR INTERNATIONAL FERTILIZER CHEMICAL;

B) REPLENISHING WORLD CEREAL STOCKS THROUGH NATIONAL ACTION IN LINE WITH INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY; AND

C) EXPANDING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, INCLUDING FORMULATION OF WORLD POLICIES FOR FERTILIZERS AND INSECTICIDES.

INTERVENTIONS 13 DELEGATIONS GENERALLY AGREED CURRENT SITUATION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CONTINUES TO BE DIFFICULT. WHILE POSSIBLE BEGIN REBUILDING MAIN STOCKS, DELEGATES NEVERTHELESS STRESSED NEED TO FOLLOW UP PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. AGREED THAT SUBSTANCE OF DISCUSSION BE PROVIDED AS BACKGROUND TO FAO DOCUMENT FORWARDED TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL. VOLPE

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